REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending.

Claims 9-14 are allowed.

Claims 1, 2, 8, 15, 16 and 22 are rejected.

Claims 3-7 and 17-21 are objected to.

ALLOWED CLAIMS

Claims 9-14 have been indicated as being allowable.

Claims Objected to:

The examiner indicated that claims 3-7 and 17-21 were allowable; however, these claims were "objected to" since they are dependent upon rejected claims. Applicant respectfully requests that this objection be held in abeyance until, final disposition of the parent claims.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC § 103

Claims 1, 2, 8, 15-16 and 22 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Admitted Prior Art in Fig. 2 in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,796,732 to Mazzola ("Mazzola").

All of the rejected claims, that is, claims 1, 2, 8, 15, 16 and 22 are directed to a technique for facilitating routing table lookup. Routing table lookup operations examine information in a packet header to determine a packet's routing. As a packet moves through a network, multiple processors may perform routing table lookup operations.

The method (or system) specified by claims 1, 2, 8, 15, 16 and 22 includes two processors that perform routing table lookup operations. The first routing table lookup operation is a conventional routing table lookup operation performed by a first processor. **The second routing table lookup operation is performed using a special and unique technique that is not taught or suggested in the prior art.**

The method (or system) specified by claims 1, 2, 8, 15, 16 and 22 facilitates the second routing table lookup operation, by having the first processor which performs a routing table lookup operation attach an identifier tag to the packet. The second processor utilizes this identifier tag to facilitate the routing table lookup operation.

The language of claim 1 will now be used as an example; however, it is noted that the other rejected claims have similar language. The method defined in claim 1 includes the following steps:

a) "using a first processor ... to perform a routing table lookup for a received packet;"

b) "determining, from ... the routing table lookup, a routing table identifier...;"

c) "passing the identifier and the received packet to the second processor; ..."

c) "the second processor retrieving routing information for the received packet from a routing table, using the identifier...".

The system shown in the Mazzola reference has one single forwarding unit 125 that examines the destination addresses. (See Mazzola column 3, line 51). There certainly is no suggestion in Mazzola of attaching an identifier tag to a packet to facilitate routing table lookup by a second processor.

The examiner indicates that the "unique index of a port" corresponds to routing information. While, in a very very general sense, the examiner's statement may be correct, it is noted that there is no correlation between an "index port" and what is recited in applicant's claim. Specifically, applicant's claim specifies that the first routing table lookup determines "a routing table identifier" and a second processor uses this "identifier" to facilitate a routing table lookup operation.

Applicant's claims specifically call for using an identifier, determined from a first routing table lookup operation, to facilitate a second routing table lookup operation. There is no suggestion of any such method in the cited references.

CONCLUSION:

For the above reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 8, 15-16 and 22 under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

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Respectfully submitted,

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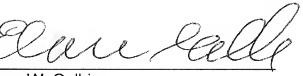

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